

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A process for producing β -~~manganese manganese~~ dioxide or γ - β -~~manganese dioxide~~ with a sodium content of 0.05 to 0.2% by weight for lithium primary batteries, the process consisting essentially of the steps of neutralizing electrolytic manganese dioxide with an aqueous solution containing 2.0 to 5.0g of sodium hydroxide per kg of manganese dioxide and then ~~firing~~ heating the neutralized manganese dioxide at a temperature and for a time sufficient to produce β -manganese dioxide or γ - β -manganese dioxide having a sodium content of 0.05 to 0.2% by weight.

4. (currently amended) The process for producing β -~~manganese manganese~~ dioxide or γ - β -~~manganese dioxide~~ for lithium primary batteries according to claim 3, wherein said electrolytic manganese dioxide has a phosphorus content of 0.05 to 2.0% by weight.

5-12. (canceled)